

Nathaniel Abston, Jr., Ph.D., Mental Health Clinic Psychologist

School: University of Southern Mississippi

Internship: Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

License: Mississippi, 1984-Present
Alabama, 1997-Present

Duties: Dr. Abston serves as a Clinical Psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic, at the Mobile, Alabama VA Outpatient Clinic (MOPC). He provides a wide range of psychological services including assessment, consultation, individual and group psychotherapy to Veterans with PTSD, Depression and Severe Mental Disorders. He also provides EAP Services to MOPC Staff and serves on the Psychology Service Peer Review Committee.

Professional: Dr. Abston's clinical and research interest include: the treatment of PTSD, Depression and Severe Mental Illness, Stress Management, Multicultural Issues in Psychology and the use of Family Therapy and Spirituality in Psychotherapy. His theoretical orientation is eclectic with an emphasis on Cognitive-Behavioral and Interpersonal Therapy Interventions. He is Lecturer at the University of South Alabama, where he teaches courses in African-American Psychology and Abnormal Psychology.

Personal: Dr. Abston is an avid Jazz and Sports fan. He enjoys fishing, gardening, reading and attending local and regional Jazz and Blues Concerts and College and Professional Sporting Events.

Adam D. Akers, Psy.D

Title(s): Psychologist – Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic

School: Wright State University, School of Professional Psychology

Internship: Pine Grove Behavioral Health and Addiction Services

Postdoctoral Fellowship: Pine Grove Behavioral Health and Addiction Services, emphasis on sexual addiction, and addictions within the geriatric community

License: anticipated Louisiana, 2015

Duties: Dr. Akers is a psychologist for the Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic. His duties in this role include: completing psychological intake assessments, conducting evidence-based psychotherapy individually and in group settings, and working with Veterans at high risk for suicide.

Professional Interests: Dr. Akers's professional interests include primary care and health psychology, chemical and process addictions, sexual behavior and sexual health, intimate partner violence prevention, and cultural diversity. His interests also include the practice of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive-Behavior Therapy (CBT), and integrating Feminist Theory and Multiculturalism in to his work with patients . Dr. Akers's theoretical orientation is integrative, primarily CBT with a Feminist and Multicultural perspective.

Personal Interests: Spending time with his children, friends, and two dogs, Monkey and Abita, cooking, All things New Orleans : music, food, culture, and the Saints (WHO DAT!), movies, and playing trivia games.



Ronald W. Alexander, Ph.D.

Titles(s): Clinical Health Psychologist

School: University of Alabama, Birmingham

Internship: Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX

Post-doctoral Fellowship: Clinical Health Psychology, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX

License: Kansas, 1999 – Present



Duties: Dr. Alexander is responsible for providing a full spectrum of health psychology/ behavioral medicine services within the medical center. He is currently involved with the Health Psychology/Behavioral Medicine Clinic, MH Integrated Primary Care, Pain Clinic, MOVE! Program and the Traumatic Brain Injury/Polytrauma screening program.

Professional: Dr. Alexander's theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive/behavioral with an emphasis on comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment and treatment. He is an avid supporter of the integration of mental health professionals into primary care clinics, with strong emphasis on the behavioral health consultant (BHC) model of care. He has special interest in the proper referral, and comprehensive assessment and treatment of veterans returning from the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Other clinical and research interventions on quality of life and the overall reduction of health care costs. He is in the process of obtaining ABPP certification in Clinical Health Psychology.

Kellee R. Bivens, Ph.D.

Titles(s): Gulf Coast Health Behavior Coordinator

School: University of Alabama

Internship: University of Alabama at
Birmingham/Birmingham VAMC

License: Alabama, 2009 – Present

Duties: As Health Behavior Coordinator (HBC) for VA Gulf Coast, Dr. Bivens participates in the training of staff in health coaching and motivational interviewing. As HBC, she serves as co-chair of the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Committee. She currently is involved in facilitation of the MOVE! Weight Management Program and Smoking Cessation Program at the Joint Ambulatory Care Center (JACC) – Pensacola Outpatient Clinic.

Professional: Clinical and research interests include chronic pain, health behavior change, behavioral sleep medicine, acceptance and commitment therapy, and motivational interviewing. Her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive behavioral.

Personal: Interests include reading, going to the movies or watching DVDs, spending time with her beagle, Logan, and watching Alabama Football.



Kara V. Boyer, Ph.D.

Title: Assistant Clinical Coordinator-Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program; Assistant Director of Postdoctoral Training

School: The University of South Dakota

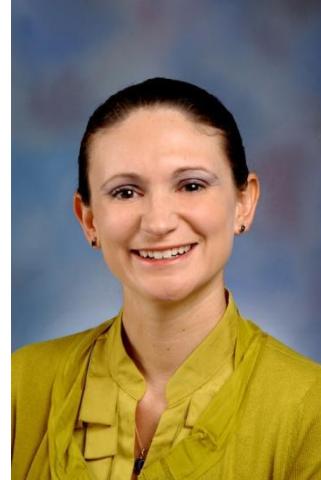
Internship: Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

License: Mississippi, 2011 – Present

Duties: Dr. Boyer is the Assistant Clinical Coordinator of the Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program. Her duties in this role include assisting in the day to day management of the program, especially with regard to the psychotherapeutic offerings and program evaluation.

Professional Interests: Dr. Boyer's professional interests include Rural Mental Health, issues related to aging and the phenomenology of PTSD. Her interests also include the practice of Evidenced-Based therapies, including cognitive behavioral, cognitive processing and dialectical behavioral therapies. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral.

Personal Interests: Her personal interests include spending time with her family. She loves crafts and spends more time in Hobby Lobby than is probably healthy. She also enjoys SEC football and waits all winter, spring and summer to see her team play between the hedges.



Avery R. Buras, Ph.D.

Title: Psychologist – Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Program (SAIOP)

School: Texas A&M University

Internship: Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

License: Louisiana, 2004- present 16

Duties: Dr. Buras is the psychologist for the SAIOP. His duties in this role include: completing intake psychological evaluations/assessments of Veterans admitted to this program, conducting lecture and process group therapy, working with Veterans on an individual basis and playing an active role on the SAR RTP interdisciplinary treatment team. Group therapy includes groups in Mood Management; Handling Guilt, Shame and Anger; the link between the biology of addiction and need for behavioral change for treatment; Substance Abuse Education, Relaxation Training and 12-Step Work. Dr. Buras also teaches seminars on the assessment of and case conceptualization of alcohol and drug addiction.

Professional Interests: Dr. Buras' professional interests include the treatment of addiction, developmental disabilities, behavioral medicine/health psychology, adult and adolescent development, and abnormal psychology. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral with an emphasis on behavioral interventions, especially with those early in recovery.

Personal Interests: His personal interests include: following his son around as he plays, traveling baseball, biking, fishing, listening to live music, and anything New Orleans.

Scott A. Cardin, Ph.D.

Titles(s): Director of Postdoctoral Training; Lead Telehealth Psychologist

School: Texas A&M University

Internship: University Houston Counseling and Psychological Service

Post-doc: Michael E. DeBakey VAMC, Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC)

License: Mississippi, 2008 – Present

Duties: Director of Postdoctoral Training; Director of Postgraduate Interprofessional Training

Professional: Dr. Cardin's primary clinical interests include rural mental health, supervision/training, psychotherapy process, group therapy, mindfulness, and language factors. His theoretical orientation is eclectic with an emphasis on psychodynamic therapy. He is one of the supervisors for the telehealth rotation, but also provides group psychotherapy in the outpatient mental health clinic, including overseeing a DBT clinic and facilitating interpersonal process groups. Prior to joining our VA, he completed a two-year MIRECC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Advanced Psychology with an emphasis in research. His research efforts since joining the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System have revolved around rural mental health and locally significant clinical populations. Specifically, he is interested in examining psychotherapy utilization and implementation studies examining ways to improve access to care. Dr. Cardin serves on the Executive Council of the Mississippi Psychological Association as their organization's Rural Health Coordinator. He also is a Past Chair of the Department of Veterans Affairs Psychology Training Council's (VAPTC) Rural and Small Training Program Workgroup.

Personal: Dr. Cardin enjoys reading, creative writing, recreational sports (such as basketball, golf, and disc golf), and exploring the Gulf Coast.



Michael A. Carlton, Ph.D.

Title(s): Home Based Primary Care Psychologist (HBPC)

School: University of Southern Mississippi

Internship: Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System,

License: Alabama, 2000 – present

Duties: Dr. Carlton is responsible for providing psychological services to veterans enrolled in the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program. These services include assessing cognitive disorders, performing decisional capacity (health and financial) evaluations, and participating as a member of the HBPC interdisciplinary treatment team. He also supervises interns on the HBPC rotation.

Professional: Dr. Carlton's professional interests include health psychology, traumatic stress, and examining the use of audio-visual aids and bio-feedback to enhance therapeutic outcomes. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral and eclectic.

Personal: His personal interests include playing guitar, sitting in on jam sessions, listening to a variety of music, fishing, and spending time with family.



Jack C. Carney, Ph.D.

Title(s): Assistant Chief, Psychology

School: Tennessee State University

Internship: James H. Quillen VA Medical Center

License: Alabama, 2006 – Present

Duties: Dr. Carney is the Assistant Chief, Psychology Service. He is the clinical supervisor of all staff psychologists. In addition to his administrative role, he provides long term project supervision and administrative rotation supervision.

Professional: Dr. Carney's professional interests include personality assessment, acceptance and commitment therapy, end-of-life care, traumatic stress, and health psychology. His theoretical orientation is object relations with interpersonal and cognitive-behavioral interventions.

Personal: Favorite avocations include swimming with his children, attending local plays, boogie boarding at Perdido Key, finding new sushi restaurants, and going walking with his wife.



Linda M. Cox, Ph.D.

Title: Supervisory Psychologist/Clinical Coordinator
PRRTP

School: University of Southern Mississippi

Internship: Iowa State University Counseling Center

License: Mississippi 1998 – Present

Duties: Dr. Cox is the Clinical Coordinator of the 72 bed residential treatment program that addresses Addiction, military related PTSD, Chronic Mental Illness, and homelessness. She programmatically supervises approximately fifty staff from multiple disciplines: Psychology, Social Work, Addictions, Recreational Therapy, Primary Care, Psychiatry, Nursing, Vocational Rehabilitation, Chaplain Services, and Pharmacy.

Professional interests: Dr. Cox's professional interests include mental health administration, leadership development, clinical supervision of developing psychotherapists, and best practices in treatment of co-occurring disorders. Treatment approaches are integrative in nature, incorporating cognitive-behavioral, humanistic-existential, and feminist perspectives.

Personal Interests: Her personal interests include spending time with her husband, adult daughters, and her pets (Blue Heeler Mix dog and a mixed breed cat), grilling out on weekends, and gardening. She also loves music (all types) and reading fiction.



Candace M. Drake, Psy.D.

Title(s): Co-Director of Intern Training;
PTSD Psychologist

School: University of Indianapolis

Internship: Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System,

License: Alabama, 2012- present

Duties: As PTSD Psychologist at the Joint Ambulatory Care Center (JACC) in Pensacola, FL, Dr. Drake provides both individual and group psychotherapy for Veterans diagnosed with PTSD. She also participates in interdisciplinary treatment planning both within the general mental health clinic and the PTSD Clinical Team. She serves as Assistant Director of Training to the Pre-Doctoral Internship Training Program.

Professional Interests: Dr. Drake's professional interests include a commitment to training, supervision, and the consultation process. Clinically, she emphasizes the use of evidence-based treatments. She is certified in providing both Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy and is a VA National PE Consultant. In addition to her duties as ADOT, Dr. Drake serves as the Didactics/Rotation Coordinator for the Internship Training Program as well as EBT Preceptor of the Rural Mental Health Post-Doctoral Training Program.

Personal Interests: Dr. Drake enjoys reading, listening to music, expressive dance (such as the 'Shopping Cart' and 'Sprinkler'), and spending time with family, friends, and boxer dog, Sunshine. She also loves football and frequently dominates in Fantasy Football Leagues.



Shannon K. S. Fussell, Ph.D.

Title(s): Co-Director of Intern Training; Staff Psychologist

School: Auburn University

Internship: The University Counseling Center – Florida State University

License: Georgia, 2009 – Present

Duties: In addition to her role in the Predoctoral Internship program, Dr. Fussell's clinical focus is on working with couples and families.

Professional: Dr. Fussell's professional interests include training, supervision, developmental psychology, the therapeutic alliance, and working with couples and families. She enjoys using a variety of evidence-based practices with the relationship at the center of therapeutic interactions.

Personal: Dr. Fussell loves to try new things and almost always enjoys them. She would like to, and at times does, wear flip-flops year round. She enjoys playing classical piano and honky-tonk guitar. She is very proud of her eclectic record collection. She enjoys running, cooking, trying new foods, billiards, and time with family and friends.



Ginger A. Gunn Ph.D.,

Title(s): Psychologist – Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Program with specialty focus in Chronic Mental Illness

School: Seattle Pacific University

Internship: Wyoming State Hospital

License: Mississippi, May 2013 – Present

Duties: Dr. Gunn is a psychologist for the MHR RTP. Her duties in this role include: completing intake psychological assessment interviews, conducting lecture and process group therapy, working with individual patients and participating on an interdisciplinary treatment team. Group therapy includes groups in Social Skills Training, Illness Management and Recovery, Anger Management, Mood Control and Enhancement, Creative Expressions (art focused group), Think Well/Live Well (health and behavioral medicine group), Healing in Recovery (spirituality/personal enhancement focused group), Journaling, Wellness Recovery Action Plan group. All groups utilize cognitive behavioral or dialectical behavioral techniques.

Professional Interests: Dr. Gunn's professional interests include Recovery Approach to serving clients with Serious Mental Illness, psychotherapeutic treatment for older adults, and personality assessment. Her theoretical orientation is integrative, with an emphasis in interpersonal and cognitive behavioral interventions.

Personal Interests: Her personal interests include hiking, pumping iron, antiquing, and traveling and discovering new areas in the Gulf Coast and the US.

Angela P. Hatcher, Ph.D.

Title: Clinical Psychologist – Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHR RTP)

School: Western Michigan University

Internship: Fulton State Hospital

License: Alabama, 2010 – Present; Michigan, 2010 – Present

Duties: Dr. Hatcher is a psychologist for the MHR RTP. Her duties in this role include: completing intake psychological assessment interviews, suicide risk assessments, and suicide safety plans; conducting lecture and process group therapy; working with individual clients; and participating on an interdisciplinary treatment team. Therapy groups include Relapse Prevention, Introduction to Addictions, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Self-Acceptance, and Motivational Enhancement Therapy. All groups utilize behavioral and cognitive behavioral techniques.

Professional Interests: Dr. Hatcher's professional interests include substance use disorders, offender treatment, forensic assessments, and psychopathy. Her theoretical orientation is behavioral, with a cognitive-behavioral influence.

Personal Interests: Her personal interests include spending time with her family, traveling, spending time on the water, reading, and watching Saints and Alabama football.

Stephen R. Hill, Ph.D.,

Title: Staff Psychologist

School: Florida State University

Internship: Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System; Erwin L. Shatus award for Outstanding Psychology Resident

License: North Carolina, 2004-present

Duties: Dr. Hill's primary focus is the provision of individual and group psychotherapy for Veterans diagnosed with PTSD, emphasizing evidence-based treatment and techniques as clinically appropriate. Additionally, he conducts psychological evaluation for the purposes of diagnostic clarification and treatment planning at the request of other professionals. He currently serves as Lead Mental Health Coordinator at the Panama City CBOC, and is currently the Chair of the Psychology Professional Standards Board. He also serves as a member on the Peer Review Committee, the Mental Health Access Committee, the Family Advisory Council, and the Psychology Recruitment Team. He provides seminar instruction for objective personality measures through the Assessment Seminar for the Psychology Internship Program.

Professional Interests: Dr. Hill's professional interests include personality assessment, PTSD with Secondary Depression, and moral injury. His orientation is eclectic with an existential and cognitive-behavioral emphasis.

Personal Interests: Avocations include spending time with friends and family, traveling, recreational sports, and spending time outdoors.

Jeffrey S. Lawley, Ph.D.

Title: Psychologist – Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Program (MHR RTP)

School: University of Southern Mississippi

Internship: Michigan State University Counseling Center

License: Louisiana, 2010 – present

Duties: Dr. Lawley is the generalist psychologist for the MHR RTP. The MHR RTP is a residential program that primarily serves Veterans who need more intensive treatment than typical outpatient work, but are not appropriate for a locked inpatient unit. His duties include psychological assessment interviews and testing, individual and group therapy, and working with the MHR RTP treatment team to coordinate mental health treatment. Groups include DBT, mindfulness/meditation, CBT, Seeking Safety, process groups, and a group on mental health treatment. He recently became involved in mental health education for general staff in Behavioral Health. Dr. Lawley recently moved to the VA from a position teaching in a counseling program.

Professional Interests: Professional interests include psychological assessment, supervision, career development, and multicultural psychology. His theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive-behavioral, with heavy interpersonal and narrative influences.

Personal Interests: Personal interests include computers, cars, games, history, and football. A side interest in psychology is early childhood development, as he has a young son. His wife is also a psychologist, and they are patiently waiting for the day when their son realizes this.

Drake Miller, Psy.D., Psychologist – General Mental Health, Peer Support Supervisor

School: Nova Southeastern University

Internship: LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, 1999

License: Florida, 2001 – Present

Duties: Dr. Miller is a psychologist in the General Mental Health section at the Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic (JACC) in Pensacola. His duties in this role include: completing intake psychological assessment interviews, managing mental health consults from behavioral health and primary care staff, providing individual therapy and participating on an interdisciplinary treatment team. Dr. Miller serves as the clinical supervisor for the Peer Support staff at the JACC.

Professional: Dr. Miller's professional interests include forensic/correctional psychology, psychopathy and the detection of malingering. His theoretical orientation is integrative, with a cognitive-behavioral influence.

Personal: His personal interests include spending time at the beach, snorkeling, traveling, working out, attending Saints football games, dining with family and friends and acting like a kid at rollercoaster and water parks.



Kathleen T. Payne, Ph.D.

Title(s): Clinical Psychologist – Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Intensive Outpatient Program (PTSD-IOP)

School: University of Southern Mississippi

Internship: Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

License: Alabama, 2011 – Present

Duties: Dr. Payne is the psychologist for the PTSD IOP. Her duties in this role include: completing psychological assessment interviews, conducting lecture and process group therapy, working with individual patients and participating on an interdisciplinary treatment team. Group therapy includes groups in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Anger Management, PTSD Education, Communication Skills Training, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Special Topics, Chronic Pain Management, Relaxation and Journaling. All groups utilize cognitive behavioral, cognitive processing or dialectical behavioral techniques. Dr. Payne also serves as the Psychology Practicum Coordinator for the training program.

Professional: Dr. Payne's professional interests include behavioral medicine/health psychology, psychopathy, and psychotherapeutic treatment for older adults, with publications in each of these areas. Her theoretical orientation is integrative, with a cognitive-behavioral influence.

Personal: Her personal interests include spending time with her husband and son, traveling, running with her furry sidekicks (Roxy & Lady), cheering "War Eagle," and playing the piano.



Shelia R. Robinett, PsyD

Title(s): VISN 16 Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator / Gulf Coast Veterans Healthcare System MST Coordinator – Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic.

School: Marshall University

Internship: Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

License: Kansas 2014-Present

Duties: Dr. Robinett is the MST psychologist for the Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic. Her duties in this role include: completing intake psychological assessment interviews, conducting psychological testing and composing reports, conducting individual and group evidence-based psychotherapy. Individual psychotherapeutic interventions include Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Skills Training in Affective Interpersonal and Regulation (STAIR) Therapy. Group psychotherapeutic interventions include Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) Skills Training, Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Skills Training in Affective Interpersonal and Regulation (STAIR) Therapy, and Women's Wellness (CBT-based skills acquisition; anxiety, mood, anger, stress, chronic pain management, sleep hygiene, and women's health). She also serves as the behavioral health point of contact for patients diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria and/or for Veterans who identify as Transgender. Dr. Robinett also serves as the Interprofessional Seminar Coordinator for the Tulane Psychiatry Residents, and conducts the Underserved Seminar for the Interprofessional Postgraduate Fellowship trainees at the Gulf Coast VA. In Dr. Robinett's role as the VISN 16 MST Coordinator, she serves as the point of contact for MST Coordinators from each of the healthcare systems within the VISN. Additionally, she serves as the MST Coordinator for the Gulf Coast VA and is responsible for MST program development and evaluation, coordination of MST-related healthcare, and MST outreach activities. Dr. Robinett is a member of the Women Veteran Advisory Committee (WVAC) for the Gulf Coast VA. Finally, Dr. Robinett is a Clinical Instructor for Tulane University School of Medicine: Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Adjunct Professor for Tulane University: Department of Psychology, and Adjunct Professor for The University of Southern Mississippi: Department of Psychology.

Professional Interests: Dr. Robinett also serves as the Evidence Based Treatments (EBT) & Special Topics Seminar Coordinator for the internship training program. In addition to interests captured within the duties section above, Dr. Robinett is interested in the provision of care to underserved populations such as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual patients, patients suffering from Gender Dysphoria and/or who identify as Transgender, males sexual assault survivors, and patients living in rural areas. Behavioral interventions for sleep hygiene and sexual dysfunctions as also of interest. Dr. Robinett's professional publications focused on the identification of psychosocial factors that contribute to the development and maintenance of sexual disorders and paraphilias. Finally, Dr. Robinett utilizes objective psychological measures to conduct diagnostic personality and psychopathology, behavioral medicine/pre-operative, neuropsychological screening, and response bias (feigning, malingering) assessments.

Personal Interests: Dr. Robinett's personal interests include kayaking, playing the banjo, lounging in her hammock, cycling, camping, grilling out, bonfires, traveling, live music, hot sauce, wrestling gators, spending time with family and friends, traveling home to Appalachia, engaging in human rights activism, and exploring her inner child.

Jefferson O. Rogers, Psy.D.

Title(s): Geropsychologist, Ethics Consultation Coordinator

School: Florida Institute of Technology

Internship: Washington, DC VAMC

Postdoctoral Fellowship: Geropsychology, Little Rock VAMC

License: Mississippi, 1995 – Present



Duties: Dr. Rogers supervises students on the Geropsychology rotation and lectures on geropsychology. Clinical duties include providing psychological services to the Community Living Center, the Dementia Unit, the Transitional Care Unit, and hospice patients. He additionally serves as Chairperson of the Ethics Consultation service of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care and has been Interim Director of Training. Dr. Rogers was the 2013 recipient of the William A. Nelson Award for Excellence in Health Care Ethics.

Professional: Dr. Rogers' professional interests include geropsychology, neuropsychology, assessment of decisional capacity, tobacco cessation, and health care ethics consultation. His theoretical orientation is eclectic/pragmatic with a cognitive-behavioral emphasis.

Personal: Avocations include regularly performing music at events and haunts across the Coast, cooking, dining, sartorial matters, projects around the house, and indulging his pets, granddaughter, & wife.

Gustave F.P. Sison, Ph.D.

Title(s): Associate Chief of Staff-Behavioral Health Service; Coordinator of Research and Development; Administration, Research and Long Term Therapy Supervisor

School: University of Southern Mississippi

Internship: Albany Medical Center/VA Medical Consortium, Albany, New York

License: Mississippi, 1986 – Present



Duties: Dr. Sison is Chief Clinical Psychologist and Employee Assistance Program Coordinator at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, where he also coordinates all medical, surgical, and mental health research activities.

Professional: Dr. Sison is a practicing clinical psychologist with over 20 years experience as a clinician, researcher, and behavioral health/change consultant. In addition to heading a consulting firm that specializes in organizational behavioral change, management consulting, stress/conflict management, and outcomes measurement, he teaches a doctoral course in health psychology, and is the author of 18 professional publications in the behavioral sciences.

Personal: Personal interests include canoeing, kayaking, numismatics, and history.

Kimberly Tartt-Godbolt, PsyD.

Title: Supervisory Psychologist – Telemental Health Program

School: Georgia School of Professional Psychology

Internship: The Guidance Center Murfreesboro

Postdoctoral Fellow- Vanderbilt University Medical Center, 2008

License: Tennessee, 2008 – Present



Duties: Dr. Tartt-Godbolt is the supervisory psychologist for the Telemental Health Program. Her duties in this role include: providing leadership, guidance and consultation for Telemental Health Staff and Telemental Health issues for the CBOCs in Mobile, AL; Pensacola, FL; Panama City, FL; and Eglin Air Force Base; as well as the main medical center located in Biloxi, MS. Her role also includes participating on an interdisciplinary treatment team and providing a significant amount of "Video Telecommunications (V-Tel) Psychology", using a variety of evidence-based therapies particularly to support the treatment of PTSD. She also supervises interns on the telemental health rotation.

Professional: Dr. Tartt-Godbolt's professional interests include women's mental health, trauma, diversity issues, and training. Dr. Tartt-Godbolt served and the diversity chair for the executive board of the Tennessee Psychological Association. Research interests include technology and mental health. Her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive-behavioral. She also has an interest in mental health outreach. She is a member of the Mobile Medical Reserve Corps.

Personal Interests: Her personal interests include spending time with her two year old son and husband, watching movies, and playing the piano. She is enjoying rediscovering her hometown after being away for 16 years and getting spend more time with her extended family as well.

Rebecca A. Temple, Ph.D.

Title: Polytrauma Psychologist

School: Tennessee State University

Internship: Consortium of the Medical College of Georgia/Augusta VA Medical Center, PTSD and Rehabilitation Emphasis

License: Alabama, 2010 – Present

Duties: Dr. Temple is responsible for the provision of a full range of psychological services as a polytrauma psychologist. She provides cognitive, vocational, and adaptive assessments in an interdisciplinary Polytrauma team. She also provides pre-employment law enforcement evaluations for VA police officers. Her clinical interests include PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Rehabilitation.

Professional: Dr. Temple's professional interests include assessment, supervision, the neurobiology of psychopathology, cognitive bases of behavior, providing prolonged exposure to Veterans with combat or sexual assault exposure, and working with law enforcement officers. She enjoys using a variety of evidence-based practices using components of interpersonal and psychodynamic theories. Dr. Temple has completed training requirements for evidence-based therapies in Interpersonal Therapy for Depression (IPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE) for PTSD. She is also a VA national consultant for PE.

Personal: Her personal interests include exercise, riding around in her old car, shooting, spending time with her husband, and volunteering in the community with foster children and on the Board of Governance for the county library.



Andy Tseng, PhD

Title(s): Staff Psychologist – Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic; Disruptive Behaviors Committee, Assistant Chair

School: Auburn University

Internship: Cincinnati VA Medical Center

Postdoctoral Fellowship: Michael E. DeBakey VAMC, with an emphasis in Serious Mental Illness

License: Kansas, 2014 – Present



Duties: Dr. Tseng is a psychologist for the Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic. His duties in this role include: completing psychological intake assessments, conducting evidence-based psychotherapy individually and in group settings, and working with Veterans at high risk for suicide. Dr. Tseng is also responsible for reviewing disruptive behavior incidents and identifying Veterans who require disruptive behavior flags.

Professional Interests: Dr. Tseng's professional interests include Serious Mental Illness, PTSD, and cultural diversity. His interests also include the practice of Evidence-Based Psychotherapy, such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive-Behavior Therapy (CBT), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). Dr. Tseng's theoretical orientation is integrative.

Personal Interests: Dr. Tseng's personal interests include: the New York Yankees, culturally diverse foods, Rock Band, rollercoasters, and plenty of television and movies.

W. Brandon Ware, Psy.D.

Title: Clinical Psychologist

School: Regent University

Internship: Mississippi State Hospital

License: Mississippi, 2013 - present

Duties: Dr. Ware provides assessment and treatment services for individuals referred to the PCT PTSD Clinical Team). He utilizes both individual and group-based models of treatment in the provision of psychotherapy services, incorporating a combination of CBT and acceptance-based principles in his individual and group treatment. Dr. Ware also provides supervision for psychology interns and participates in interdisciplinary screening team meetings and annual clinical team meetings.

Professional Interests: Dr. Ware approaches psychotherapy and theory from a predominately behavioral perspective with an emphasis on second (e.g. CBT) and third wave (e.g. ACT) approaches. Clinical and research interests include mindfulness and acceptance, compassion, resilience, hope, transdiagnostic conceptualization and treatment, and biobehavioral assessment and treatment (i.e. biofeedback and neuroimaging).

Personal Interests: Dr. Ware enjoys old man activities that include going to the symphony, spending a relaxing evening at the beach, spending a relaxing evening at home, spending a relaxing few hours at the casino, spending a relaxing [insert random event here]. He also enjoys the generic activities of listening to a broad array of contrasting music styles, watching the same movies over and over again while doing something else, going to try new food at restaurants-only to get the same thing again, etc.

Lisa M. Wurst, Ph.D.

Title: Clinical Psychologist

School: Palo Alto University

Internship: Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB

License: Kansas 2013 – present; Mississippi 2013 - present

Duties: Dr. Wurst is the pain management behavioral specialist for Behavioral Medicine Services within the medical center. Her duties include comprehensive assessment of chronic pain patients, individual and group treatment with a health psychology focus, interdisciplinary team work, and significantly contributing to the development of an innovative and integrated pain clinic at the Biloxi VA.

Professional interests: Dr. Wurst's professional interests include behavioral medicine/health psychology, neuropsychology, and sports psychology. Her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive-behavioral with an emphasis on comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment and treatment.

Personal interests: Her personal interests include quality time with family and friends, running the Ocean Springs Bridge and charity races throughout the Gulf Coast, taking the boat to Destin, and annual trips back home to California.